

WHA Guidance  
February 7, 2003

**COLOMBIA INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION PROGRAM**

Q: Any comment on increasing U.S. military involvement in Colombia?

A:

- **THE UNITED STATES PROVIDES TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE TO THE COLOMBIAN SECURITY FORCES IN ARAUCA PROVINCE UNDER THE PIPELINE PROTECTION PROGRAM FUNDED BY CONGRESS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2002 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR COLOMBIA. ABOUT \$6 MILLION HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO TRAIN AND EQUIP THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY AND POLICE UNITS PROTECTING THE CAÑO LIMON-COVENAS OIL PIPELINE.**
- **ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THIS PROGRAM IS INCLUDED IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2003 APPROPRIATION FOR COLOMBIA, WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING FINALIZED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS. THESE FUNDS WILL SUPPORT TRAINING, INFRASTRUCTURE, EQUIPMENT, INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT, AND AVIATION SUPPORT, INCLUDING THE PURCHASE AND USE OF AIRCRAFT, AS WELL AS AIRCRAFT-RELATED TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE.**
- **THE PROGRAM IS HELPING THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA TO DEFEND A VITAL ECONOMIC ASSET THAT IS THREATENED BY THE ARMY OF NATIONAL LIBERATION, AND BY THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA, WHICH ARE BOTH DRUG TRAFFICKERS AND TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.**
- **TERRORIST ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THESE GROUPS HAVE RESULTED IN THE MAIMING AND MURDERING OF INNOCENT COLOMBIAN CIVILIANS, WEAKEN COLOMBIA'S CIVIL SOCIETY, AND IMPEDE THE COUNTRY'S ABILITY TO MEET ITS SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND SECURITY NEEDS.**

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**Background:** The FY2003 budget includes between \$88 million and \$98 million in FMF funding for pipeline protection in Colombia. About \$6 million in USG funding has already been granted to the Colombian Government to "jump-start" the program, under the authority of the fiscal year 2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act. The plan is consistent with our overall policy in Colombia. Under the new authorities granted by Congress in October 2002, the USG effort helps Colombia fight the combined narco-terrorist infrastructure.

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